

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 are pending in the present application. Claim 8 is amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-7 and 12-16.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubena, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,138, hereinafter “Kubena”) in view of Ruffner, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,071, hereinafter “Ruffner”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 8 has been amended so that it now depends from claim 1. Since claim 1 has been allowed, claim 8 should be allowed as well.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

December 8, 2009

Date

/Ira S. Matsil/

Ira S. Matsil

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 35,272

SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P.
17950 Preston Rd., Suite 1000
Dallas, Texas 75252
Tel.: 972-732-1001
Fax: 972-732-9218